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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/519,108

12/23/2004

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EXAMINER

IQBAL, JAVED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3709

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,108

Applicant(s)

IGARASHI ET AL.

MP

Examiner

Javed Iqbal

Art Unit

3709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/23/2004, 7/18/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The reference number "strage part" on line 2 of page 14 should be rewritten as "storage part".

Claims Rejection- 35 USC-101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claimed invention is lacking storage on a medium, which enables any underlying functionality to occur.

Claims Rejections-35 USC-102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 3709

4. Claims [1,5-10] are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2].

In Regard to claim 1, with reference to **Figure 1**, Osamu et al discloses the claimed invention including:

- Game apparatus [0001].
- Plural game data storage means [18 in Figure 1] and [line 3 of 0005].

Regarding to "means for plural data storage is mentioned to be ROM cartridge in specification on **page 8** of application", this limitation meets the three-prong test per MPEP 2181 and there by invokes 35 USC 112 6th paragraph. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2], with reference to **Figure 1**, also discloses ROM Cartridge [12]. Osamu et al is considered to be an equivalent to applicant's means for plural game data storage means because it performs the same function in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result as the corresponding element in applicant's specification.

- Replication source determination means for determining replication source game data storage means among the plural game data storage means [lines 11-19 of 0005] and [0010]. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] has mentioned two item exchange tables which include exchangeable items. In view of examiner, one of these item exchange table is source memory while the other is target memory because an item is taken from one table and stored in the other. Regarding to "means for replication

source determination" is mentioned to be game program stored in the ROM cartridge **12** and executed by portable game machine in **lines 3-7** on **page 11** of application, this limitation meets the three-prong test per MPEP 2181 and there by invokes 35 USC 112 6th paragraph. Osamu et al **[EP 1145748 A2]**, with reference to **Figure 1**, also discloses portable game device, game program **[0020]** and ROM Cartridge **[12]**. Osamu et al is considered to be an equivalent to applicant's replication source determination means because it performs the same function in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result as the corresponding element in applicant's specification.

- Replication target determination means for determining replication target game data storage means among the plural game data storage means **[lines 11-19 of 0005]** and **[0006]**. In view of examiner, one of these item exchange table is source memory while the other is target memory because an item is taken from one table and stored in the other.

Regarding to "means for replication target determination" is mentioned to be game program in the ROM cartridge **12** and executed by portable game machine in **lines 3-7** on **page 11** of application, this limitation meets the three-prong test per MPEP 2181 and there by invokes 35 USC 112 6th paragraph. Osamu et al **[EP 1145748 A2]**, with reference to **Figure 1**, also discloses portable game device, game program **[0020]** and ROM Cartridge **[12]**. Osamu et al is considered to be an equivalent to

Art Unit: 3709

applicant's replication target determination means because it performs the same function in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result as the corresponding element in applicant's specification.

- Replication means for storing game data into the replication target game data storage means [lines 1-7 of column 2]. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] clearly mentions storing an item in exchange to another item in game item storage means in aforementioned lines. Regarding to "means for replication" is mentioned to be game program in the ROM cartridge 12 and executed by portable game machine in lines 3-7 on page 11 of application, this limitation meets the three-prong test per MPEP 2181 and there by invokes 35 USC 112 6th paragraph. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2], with reference to Figure 1, also discloses portable game device, game program [0020] and ROM Cartridge [12]. Osamu et al is considered to be an equivalent to applicant's replication means because it performs the same function in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result as the corresponding element in applicant's specification.
- link data storage means to correlate two game data storage means with each other [lines 36-41 of column 6]. Regarding to "means for link data storage" is mentioned to be game program in the ROM cartridge 12 and executed by portable game machine in lines 3-7 on page 11 of application, this limitation meets the three-prong test per MPEP 2181 and

there by invokes 35 USC 112 6th paragraph. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2], with reference to **Figure 1**, also discloses portable game device, game program [0020] and ROM Cartridge [12 in **Figure 1**]. Osamu et al is considered to be an equivalent to applicant's link data storage means because it performs the same function in substantially the same way and produces substantially the same result as the corresponding element in applicant's specification.

- Each of the plural game data storage means stores original item data relating to an original item data relating to an original item and replica item data relating to a replica item [0005] and
- Replication mean stores the game data into the replication target game data storage means on the basis of the game data stored in the replication source game data storage means so that a sum of the number of original item relating to the original item data stored in the replication source game data storage means and the number of replica items relating to the replica item data stored in the replication source game data storage means become the number or replica items relating to the replica item data stored in the replication target game data storage means[lines 6-10 of column 4]. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] discloses counting means to keep track of exchange items [lines 6-10 of column 4]. In view of examiner, this counting means could have been also understood to keep count of number of copies relative to source game data storage means

Art Unit: 3709

and thus used to keep count of sum of number of original item relating to the original item data stored in the replication source game data storage means and the number of replica items relating to the replica item data stored in the replication source game data storage means become the number of replica items relating to the replica item data stored in the replication target game data storage means. It also stores the link data to correlate the replication target game data storage means with the replication source game data storage means into the link data storage means **[lines 36-41 of column 6]**.

In Regard to claim 5, Game apparatus, Plural game data storage means and link data storage means have already been discussed about in rejection of **claim 1**. Osamu et al teaches a game apparatus **[0001]** comprising plural game data storage means **[18 in Figure 1]** and **[line 3 of 0005]**. It further comprises link data storage means comprising of part of each of the plural game data storage means **[lines 36-41 of column 6]**.

In Regard to claim 6, Game apparatus, Plural game data storage means and link data storage means have already been discussed about in rejection of **claim 1**. Osamu et al, with reference to **figure 1**, teaches a game apparatus **[0001]** wherein the link data storage means **[lines 36-41 of column 6]** and the plural game data storage means are comprising of one or plural memories **([18 in Figure 1] and [line 3 of 0005])** and a storage area relating to the link data storage means and a storage area relating to

Art Unit: 3709

the plural game data storage means are separately provided in one or plural memories
[lines 43-54 of column 2].

In Regard to claim 7, All limitations of **claim 7** have been rejected in rejection of **claim 1** above except a program to cause a computer to function. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] discloses game program [lines 7-9 of column 5 and lines 37-41 of column 9] that meets all the limitation of this claim as discussed above. Therefore, in view of the examiner, it is equivalent to the **claim 7** of applicant.

In Regard to claim 8, All limitations of claim 8 have been rejected in rejection of **claim 1** above except a control method of a game apparatus. A game program [lines 7-9 of column 5 and lines 37-41 of column 9] inherently has a control method. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] also discloses a control method [line 8 of column 1] that meets all the limitations of this claim as discussed above. Therefore, in view of the examiner, invention of Osamu et al is equivalent to this claim.

In Regard to claim 9, All limitations of claim 9 have been rejected in rejections of **claims 1, 7 and 10** except a program delivery apparatus comprising an information storage medium storing a game program. Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] inherently has a program delivery apparatus for it also has the method of exchanging items, using communication [lines 3-9 of column 5]. In view of examiner, due to aforementioned reason Osamu et al's invention is equivalent to this claim.

In Regard to claim 10, All limitations of claim 7 have been rejected above. An extra limitation of this claim is information storage medium storing a program. Osamu et al discloses information storage medium in lines 8-9 of column 1 and lines 25-29 of

Art Unit: 3709

column 2. Therefore in view of examiner, Osamu et al's invention is equivalent to this claim.

Claims Rejections-35 USC-103

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osamu et al [EP 1145748 A2] as applied to claims 1 in view of Holenstein et al (U.S. Pat. No: 7,103,586 B2).

In Regard to claim 2, Osamu et al discloses disposal of an item stored in one of the plural game data storage means upon instruction, updating the original item data stored in the game data storage means whose disposal is instructed so that the number of original item is decreased **lines 50-58 of column 8**. However, Osamu et al does not specifically disclose updating the replica item data stored in another game data storage means relating to item data stored in another game data storage means relating to a replica item as a direct or indirect replica of the original item so that the number of replica item is decreased. Holenstein et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 7,103,586 B2**) discloses a database replication system where he discloses instruction such as insert, update and delete [**lines 26-36 of column 9**]. He further discloses mutually dependent databases and further updating databases relative to modifications made to the dependent database [**lines 46-49 of column 9**]. This modification could be either insertion, updating or deletion. Furthermore, since the relation between databases is mutual therefore it could be interpreted as modification made to the original relative to replica and vice versa. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify Holenstein's method with Osama's game device for re-usablity of data and to make the device more secure against data loss and easily track copies of the data in the database.

In Regard to claim 3, Osamu et al, with reference to **Figure 4**, discloses disposal of an item stored in one of the plural game data storage means upon instruction, updating the original item data stored in the game data storage means whose disposal is instructed so that the number of original item is decreased **lines 50-**

58 of column 8. However, Osamu et al does not explicitly disclose disposal of a replica item relating to the replica item data stored in one of the plural game data storage means, updating the original data stored in one of other game data storage means as a direct or indirect replication source of the game data storage means whose disposal is instructed so that the original item is decreased and updating the replica item data stored in another game data storage means relating to replica item as a direct or indirect replica of the decreased original item so that the replica item is decreased. Holenstein et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 7,103,586 B2**) discloses a database replication system where he discloses instruction such as insert, update and delete [**lines 26-36 of column 9**] and mutually dependent databases and further updating databases relative to modifications made to the dependent database [**lines 46-49 of column 9**]. This modification could be either insertion, updating or deletion. Furthermore, since the relation between databases is mutual therefore it could be interpreted as modification made to the original relative to replica and vice versa. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify Holenstein's method with Osama's game device for re-usability of data and to make the device more secure against data loss and easily track copies of the data in the database.

In Regard to claim 4, Osamu et al, with reference to **Figure 4**, discloses disposal of an item stored in one of the plural game data storage means upon instruction, updating the original item data stored in the game data storage means whose disposal is instructed so that the number of original item is decreased **lines 50-58 of column 8.** However, Osamu et al does not explicitly disclose updating of a replica

Art Unit: 3709

item data stored in one of the game data storage means as direct or indirect replication targets of the game data storage means whose deletion is instructed so that replica items, equal in number to the number of original items relating to the original item data stored in the game data storage means whose is instructed are changed or original items, changing link data, which is stored in the link data storage means and correlates the game data storage means whose deletion is instructed with the game data storage means as the replication target of the game data storage means, to link data to correlate the game data storage means as the replication target of the game data storage means whose deletion is instructed with said one of the game data storage means and deleting the game data storage means whose deletion is instructed.

Correlation of game data storage means has also been talked about above and explicitly mentioned in **lines 36-41 of column 6** of Osamu et al's invention. Holenstein et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 7,103,586 B2**) discloses a database replication system where he discloses instruction such as insert, update and delete [**lines 26-36 of column 9**] and mutually dependent databases and further updating databases relative to modifications made to one of the dependent database [**lines 46-49 of column 9**]. This modification could be either insertion, updating or deletion. Furthermore, since the relation between databases is mutual therefore it could be interpreted as modification made to the original relative to replica and vice versa. It also means that in case of such traverse effect, it would have been obvious to update correlation link between these two databases as direct impact of deletion. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify Holenstein's method with

Art Unit: 3709

Osama's game device for re-usability of data and to make the device more secure against data loss and easily track copies of the data in the database.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takeru Takeda (**JP02002035421 A**) discloses game device, control method for game machine, information storage medium, and device and method for distributing program. Kentaro Nagashima (**JP02002073043 A**) teaches a method of providing media player for reproducing and outputting audio data and visual data which changes selection into other pieces of music and video automatically so as not to view and listen a piece of music or video previously viewed and listened once again. Negishi et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,278 B1**) discloses computer data sharing system and method for maintaining replica consistency. Moser et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,363 B1**) teaches of live upgrade process for object oriented programs. Breilbart et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,963,914 B1**) discloses method and apparatus for retrieving a network file using a logical reference. Lomet (**U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,065**) discloses a data system with distributed tree indexes and method for maintaining the indexes. Benson (**U.S. Pat. No. 5,799,321**) discloses replicating deletion information using sets of deleted record IDS. Norin et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 5,787,247**) teaches of replica administration without data loss in a store and forward replication enterprise. Sugimura (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,582,311 B1**) discloses a memory card device, video game apparatus, and program providing medium. Miyamoto et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,220,964 B1**) discloses a game system

Art Unit: 3709

operable with backup data on different type of game machine. Ito (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,302,795 B1**) discloses data processing system, method and apparatus to control the execution of a downloaded program depending on a usage time limit when a sub program downloaded from a video game machine is stored in the storage device. Goldring et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,397,125 B1**) teaches a method of and apparatus for performing design synchronization in a computer system. Kitano et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,659,873 B1**) discloses game system, game device capable of being used in the game system and computer readable memory medium. Yamamoto et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,674,438 B1**) teaches method of and system for adding information and recording medium. Taho et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 6,955,606 B2**) discloses game information storage medium and game system using the same. Bourbonnais et al (**U.S. Pat. No. 7,076,508 B2**) teaches a method, system and program for merging log entries from multiple recovery log files.

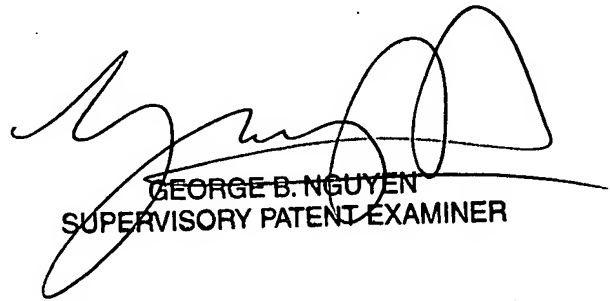
9. An inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner be directed to Javed Iqbal whose telephone number is 571-270-3214. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:50 am - 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Nguyen can be reached at 571-272-4491. The fax phone number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is

Art Unit: 3709

available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (USA or CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Javed Iqbal
June 8, 2007



GEORGE B. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER